Climate Works for All
Fiscal Year 2027 – 2028 Climate Priorities
For questions, contact: faiza@alignny.org

February 25, 2026

Dear Mayor Mamdani and Speaker Julie Menin,

We, the undersigned 75 labor unions, environmental justice organizations, and community groups representing over 2 million New Yorkers are writing to express our support for a Green, Healthy Schools budget, investing $2.2 billion for public school infrastructure upgrades in the FY27 Budget.

Mayor Mamdani must make climate a priority for his administration. Recent extreme weather events show us that the climate crisis represents the biggest threat to public health and the city's overall safety. **Initiatives to improve public school building infrastructure have been underfunded, creating unhealthy working and learning environments for students, teachers, and workers.**

School buildings are among the largest public greenhouse gas emitters in New York which regularly expose students, workers, and surrounding communities to toxic pollutants that put their health at risk, especially in low income and disadvantaged neighborhoods. These conditions are proven to lower student performance and increase absences and disciplinary referrals. In 2022, former Mayor Adams launched the Leading the Charge Initiative to electrify 100 public schools by 2030, but to date, he has only allocated funding to electrify 33 schools. This initiative does not go far enough to address the realities our communities are facing.

Investing in Green, Healthy Schools means investing in good green jobs while addressing the interrelated crises of climate change, public health, and social inequality. The Climate Works for All coalition and allies call on the City Council and the Mamdani administration to commit **$2.2 billion in the FY27 city budget for clean energy upgrades in NYC Public Schools which would expand solar installation on schools and electrification projects, insulation repairs and upgrades to HVAC systems. This annual investment would create 321,000 green union jobs over five years; save the city**

millions in energy costs; and put us on a path to upgrade 500 schools by 2030 and reach net zero emissions as a school district by 2040.

New York City must fund rapid decarbonization and move towards a renewable energy economy that prioritizes workers and communities, hand in hand.

Sincerely,

1. 350 Brooklyn
2. 350NYC
3. ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York
4. Alliance for Quality Education
5. Association for Energy Affordability
6. Bangladeshi-Americans for Political Progress
7. Beyond Plastics Queens
8. Born Carbon
9. Bike Bus NYC
10. Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
11. Chapter 3 New York State American Academy of Pediatrics
12. Citizen Action of New York
13. City Parks Foundation
14. Climate Defenders
15. Climate Families NYC
16. Climate Psychology Alliance - North America
17. Climate and Resilience Education Taskforce (CRETF), a project of National Wildlife Federation
18. Climate Reality Project NYC
19. Climate Works for All coalition (23+ organizations)
20. Community Education Council District 9
21. Community Voices Heard
22. CWA Local 1180
23. District Council 9 Painters and Allied Trades
24. District Council 37, AFSCME
25. Earthjustice
26. El Puente de Williamsburg
27. Food & Water Watch
28. Fox EduConsulting
29. Fridays For Future NYC
30. Gaia Scholastic

31. Greenfaith
32. Green City Force
33. Green Map System
34. Here on Earth
35. Indivisible Harlem
36. Jewish Climate Action Network
37. Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ)
38. Jobs to Move America
39. Kidical Mass NYC
40. Kinetic Communities Consulting
41. Local Union No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
42. Long Island Progressive Coalition
43. Lower East Side Ecology Center
44. Make Justice Normal
45. Mothers Out Front
46. National Wildlife Federation
47. New Settlement Parent Action Committee
48. New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
49. New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)
50. New York Communities for Change
51. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI)
52. New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV)
53. New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
54. New York State Nurses Association
55. New Yorkers United for Child Care
56. NY Renews Coalition, 400+ Member organizations
57. NYC Democratic Socialists of America
58. NYC Youth Agenda
59. PowerSwitch Action
60. PSC-CUNY, AFT #2334
61. Queens Climate Project
62. Rider’s Alliance
63. Rocking the Boat
64. Sane Energy Project
65. Seeding Sovereignty
66. Solar One
67. StreetWorks Coalition
68. Sunrise Movement NYC
69. The People's Plan & People's Budget Campaign

70. The Point CDC
71. The Veggie Nuggets
72. Third Act NYC
73. TREEage
74. Urbecon LLC
75. WE ACT for Environmental Justice